

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ROME 02604 211645Z

42

ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 JUSE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 TRSE-00 SEC-01 FRB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

/043 W

----- 130727

R 211545Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9680

INFO AMCONSUL MILAN

UNCLAS ROME 2604

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, IT

SUBJ: /ESPRESSO/ ARTICLE ON SINDONA EXTRADITION

REF : ROME 2468

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF EXTRACT FROM ARTICLE IN
WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE /ESPRESSO/ OF FEBRUARY 23, 1975.

2. /QUOTE/. ON THE AFTERNOON OF LAST JANUARY 21, JUDGE
GUIDO VIOLA BECAME CONVINCED THAT MICHELE SINDONA COULD
BE FOUND IN NEW YORK. THE DAY BEFORE HE HAD LEARNED THAT
THE CORRESPONDENT OF A MILAN DAILY HAD SPOKEN BY TELEPHONE WITH
SINDONA, ASKING HIM IN VAIN FOR AN INTERVIEW. THE NEXT DAY
HE ALSO LEARNED THAT TWO EDITORS OF THE AMERICAN
WEEKLY /ARRON'S/ (BARRON'S?)
HAD APPROACHED THE ITALIAN FINANCIER TO TRY TO CONVINCE
HIM THAT HE SHOULD RELEASE A STATEMENT. AS SOON AS VIOLA HAD
CONFIRMATION OF THESE TWO EPISODES, HE HURRIED TO THE
OFFICE OF EXAMINING MAGISTRATE OVIDIO URBISCI. THEY WORKED
TOGETHER ALL NIGHT LONG AND THE FOLLOWING DAY AT NINE O'CLOCK
IN THE MORNING WERE KNOCKING ON THE DOOR OF THE ATTORNEY
GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC TO DELIVER A VOLUMINOUS FILE TO HIM.
ON THE FRONT APPEARED, "EXTRADITION OF MICHELE SINDONA
AND URGENT MEASURES." INSIDE WERE ALL THE DOCUMENTS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ROME 02604 211645Z

NECESSARY FOR EXTRADITION PROCEDURES AGAINST SINDONA: A

COPY OF CRIMINAL CHARGES AND OF THE TWO WARRANTS FOR HIS ARREST; AN INDICATION OF THE PENALTIES ESTABLISHED UNDER THE

PENAL CODE FOR THESE OFFENSES WITH THE ANNOTATION, "THESE OFFENSES JUSTIFY EXTRADITION FROM THE STATE OF THE YORK."

3. FOR SAFE MEASURE, VIOLA AND URBISCI ALSO REQUESTED PROVISIONAL ARREST. THEIR FILE, PREPARED ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, WAS SENT BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO THE MINISTRIES OF GRACE AND JUSTICE, INTERIOR, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND ALSO TO INTERPOL. THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE THEN AUTHORIZED THE FARNESINA TO TRANSMIT THE FILE TO THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE END OF JANUARY, AMBASSADOR EGIDIO ORTONA HAD ON HIS TABLE THE REQUEST FOR THE PROVISIONAL ARREST AND EXTRADITION OF MICHELE SINDONA, WITH THE APPROVAL OF MINISTERS ORONZO REALE AND MARIANO RUMOR. AT THIS POINT IN THE STORY, A CLOUD OF MYSTERY DESCENDS. OUR AMBASSADOR SHOULD HAVE TRANSMITTED THE REQUESTS SENT FROM ROME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WHICH IS COMPETENT TO ASK THE RESPONSIBLE JUDICIAL AUTHORITY TO ISSUE AN ORDER FOR PROVISIONAL ARREST. HOW MUCH TIME IS USUALLY REQUIRED TO OBTAIN FROM AN ITALIAN JUDGE EXECUTION OF AN ORDER OF THIS SORT IN THE UNITED STATES? THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAYS THAT THREE DAYS AT MOST ARE SUFFICIENT. HUNDREDS OF CASES ARE TAKEN CARE OF WITHOUT ANY DIFFICULTY. FOR SINDONA IT APPEARS THAT TWENTY DAYS WERE NOT ENOUGH. EVERY COUPLE DAYS, JUDGE URBICI ASKS FOR NEWS FROM THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE THROUGH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. NO ONE KNOWS ANYTHING. AT THE FARNESINA, THEY SAY THAT AMBASSADOR ORTONA MUST KNOW ALL ABOUT IT. BUT ORTONA DECLARES THAT, BY NOW, THE CASE IS IN THE HANDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. AT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IT SEEMS THAT NO ONE IS AWARE OF THE FILE ON THE FUGITIVE FINANCIER. ORTONA SUGGESTS THAT WE ASK THE US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BEGIN THE PROCEDURES FOR ARREST AND, THEREFORE, FOR EXTRADITION. BUT NO ONE IS ABLE TO LEARN ANYTHING IN THE BUREAUCRATIC MAZE OF THE DEPARTMENT IN WASHINGTON. IN THE MEANTIME, SINDONA LIVES HAPPILY IN NEW YORK. HE FEARS NEITHER THE ITALIAN NOR THE AMERICAN COURTS. WHY? VIOLA AND URBISCI ARE CONVINCED THAT SINDONA IS AVAILING HIMSELF OF THAT NETWORK OF HIGH-RANKING PROTECTORS WHICH HE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ROME 02604 211645Z

BUILT UP FROM THE DAY WHEN HE GAVE NIXON A CHECK FOR A MILLION DOLLARS TO SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S RE-ELECTION. AND, EVEN IF NIXON IS TODAY A PRIVATE CITIZEN, THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF NIXON SUPPORTERS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT. /END QUOTE/.VOLPE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXTRADITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME02604
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750062-1013
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750223/aaaaaault.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ROME 2468
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 SEP 2003 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: /ESPRESSO/ ARTICLE ON SINDONA EXTRADITION
TAGS: EFIN, CPRS, IT, US, (SINDONA, MICHELE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006